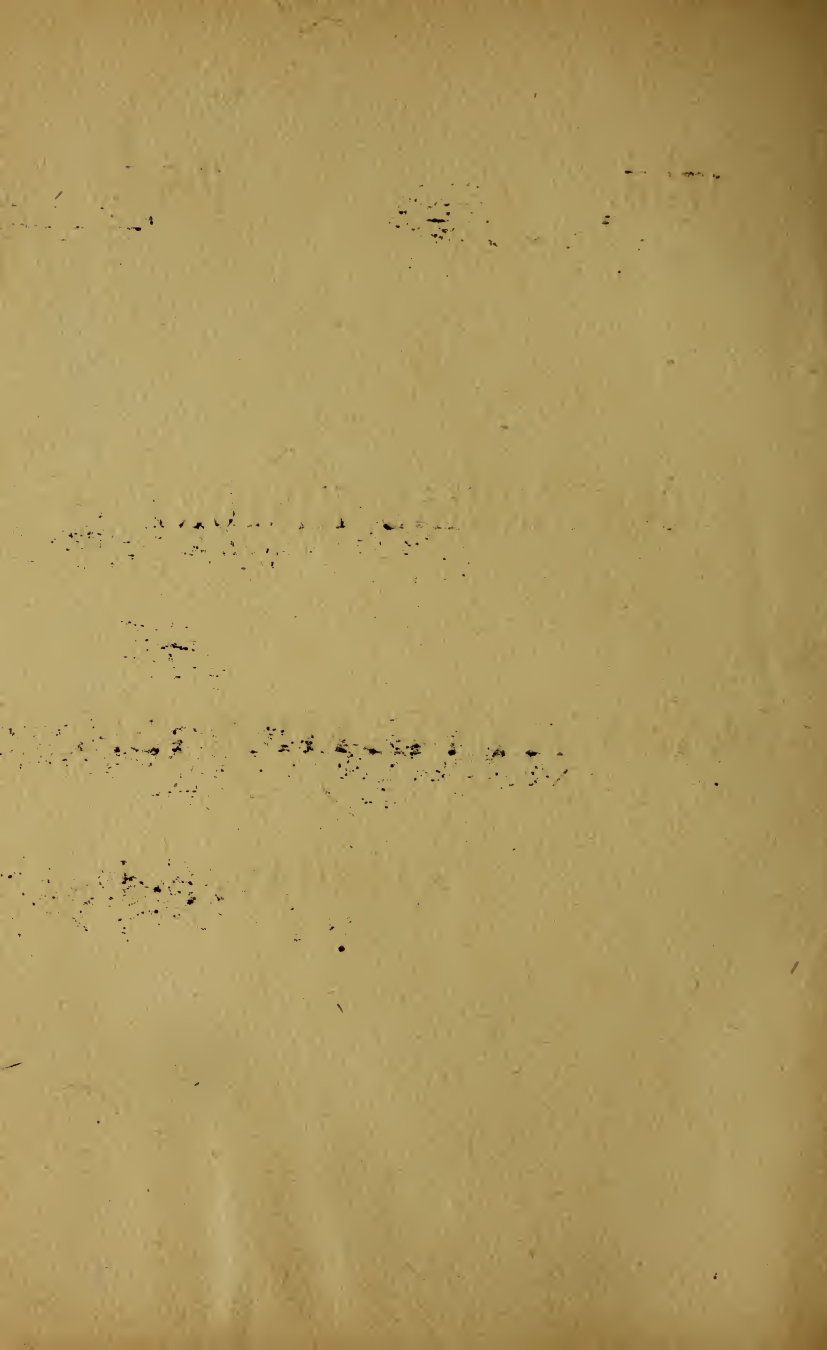




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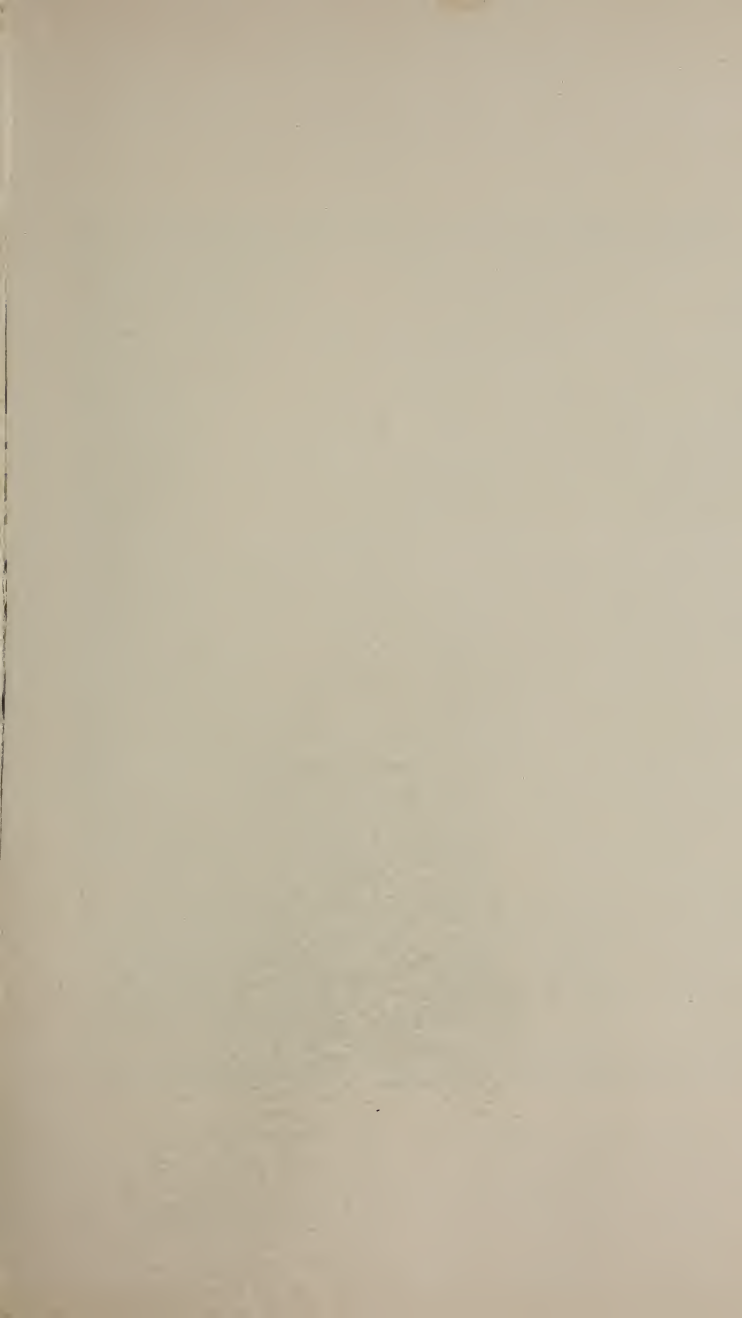




Photo by Jansen.

FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF
RAHWAY METHODISM
RAHWAY, N. J.

BY
REV. F. C. MOONEY.

NEW YORK.
RICHMOND PUBLISHING CO.
1898.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE.

When this work was begun it was proposed to preface the history of Methodism in Rahway with a brief account of the origin and early history of Methodism, especially the work of Mr. Wesley and Bishop Asbury. When, however, it was decided to reduce the price to twenty-five cents it was found necessary to curtail the cost by omitting the preface, but it was too late then to change the paging as the first chapters had already been printed.

FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

1798 - 1898.

CHAPTER III.

ORGANIZATION OF THE SOCIETY—THE BUILD- ING OF THE CHAPEL.

THE late J. Scott Terrill, in his manuscript notes on the history of the first Methodist Episcopal church of Rahway, traces the introduction of Methodism as far back as 1774, when the Rev. William Watters was on the New Jersey Circuit, and, so far as the records show, the only conference preacher in the state. This was less than three years after Francis Asbury landed in America, less than six years after the dedication of the old John street church, the first Methodist house of worship built in America and while New

Jersey was one of the English colonyies.

These services were held at the houses of the different converts to Methodism and were conducted by the circuit riders, as the conference ministers were then called, as often as they could visit their widely scattered flocks, and at other times by local preachers, and class leaders.

The meetings were sometimes held at the house of Mr. Amos Terrill, grandfather of the late J. Scott Terrill, who lived on what was then called the King's Highway, but now St. George avenue, sometimes at Daniel Terrill's, at Jonathan Oliver's near the salt meadows, or at John Morris' in Bricktown.

During the summers the services were often held out of doors. Mr. J. Scott Terrill says he well remembers to have seen the large tree on Mr. Morris' lawn, under whose protecting shade the early Methodists of Rahway used to hold their services.

Notwithstanding the difficulties under which the society labored it continued to increase in strength and numbers, and in 1798 or some time prior to that date had organized and elected a board of trustees. In October of that year the trustees purchased from William Shotwell, for fifty dollars, a lot on which it was proposed to erect a house of worship.

This deed conveyed from William Shotwell to Jonathan Oliver and Benjamin Woodruff, of Essex County, and William Flatt, Jr., Abraham Storms and John Marsh, of Middlesex County, trustees, "in trust for the uses and purposes hereinafter mentioned: A plot of land on the road leading from John Tucker's to Shotwell's Landing."

We have no record of the meeting at which these trustees were elected. It does not appear that any record book of the proceedings of the trustees or of the business meetings of the society was kept

until the pastorate of the Rev. William Granville, in 1832, as Mr. Granville prefaces the book of records with the following note:

“Rahway, June 18th, 1832.”

“Agreeable to a vote of the trustees of the M. E. church in Rahway, I have collected their different papers, and, as far as possible, arranged them according to their different dates in the best manner within my power.”

The first entry in the records is a copy of the above mentioned deed from Mr. Shotwell.

This lot, however, was never built upon, and in 1808 Dr. Moses Jacques having offered to donate a site considered more favorable (that on which the church now stands), the trustees decided to surrender the Shotwell lot, which had not been paid for, to the grantor.

On June 5th, 1804, Francis Asbury, the first Methodist Bishop of America visited Rahway, stopping over night with Mr.

Flatt, but we have no records of any meetings he held here. He probably preached at Mr. Flatt's house.

The first real effort toward the erection of a suitable place of worship was begun in 1806. At a meeting held Nov. 26th, of that year, to solicit aid in building the first M. E. church in Rahway, the following resolution was passed:

“Whereas the members of the M. E. Church, and others who wish to attend the ministry of said church, that live in Rahway and its vicinity, are desirous of erecting a place of worship, a plain building about forty feet square for the public worship of Almighty God, and to promote the practice of piety and virtue, but on estimation of the expenses they find themselves inadequate to the completion thereof without the aid of their fellow citizens, they therefore hereby solicit the support of the pious, the charitable and the benevolent of every denomination to

enable them to carry into effect their proposed design. The smallest sums will be gratefully acknowledged and thankfully received. They are encouraged to hope for success as one person (not of their community), has generously offered to donate to them a lot of suitable size for the purpose, between upper Rahway and Bridge Town on which they propose to erect the building. William Flatt, Aaron Miller and Enoch Moore are appointed managers of the proposed building.

“We the subscribers being desirous of encouraging the above laudable design do hereby promise to pay the above named William Flatt, Aaron Miller and Enoch Moore for the purposes foresaid the several sums affixed to our names as soon as one thousand dollars are subscribed for the purposes aforesaid.”

The list of subscribers was kept on separate papers, probably one copy for each of the building committee, or “managers,”

and although the following list contains all those we have been able to find, it may possibly not be a complete list.

Thomas Morrell, \$40.00.

Aaron Miller, \$40.00.

Jonathan Oliver, \$40.00.

Samuel Moore, \$10.00.

James Lorie, \$5.00.

James Dougherty, \$1.00.

William Farnote, \$4.00.

Eliakim Ludlow, \$2.00.

Asa Arnold, \$8.00.

Simon Lott, \$1.00.

William Wainwright, \$3.00.

Elizabeth Widagan, \$2.00.

Name Unknown, \$5.00.

William Clark, \$3.00.

John Morris, \$5.00.

Classon Martin, \$2.00.

John Johnson, \$3.00.

John Cheddick, \$10.00.

Stephen Winans, \$5.00.

Isaac Wyman in work, \$5.00.

Samuel Winans, 8 loads of stone.

Joseph Oliver, Jr., \$10.00.

Enoch Moore, \$30.00.

Enoch Moore & Co., \$5.00.

William Flatt, Jr., \$50.00.

John Flatt, \$20.00.

John Wilson, \$3.00.

John P. Thorp, \$1.00.

Palatiah Whitehead, \$1.00.

James Thorp, Jr., \$1.00.

William Moore, \$1.00.

Freeman Worth, \$1.50.

John Bergun, \$1.00.

George Harrison, \$5.00.

William Martin, \$1.00.

John Williams, \$1.00.

John O. Jaques, \$20.00.

John Jaques, \$3.00.

Joseph Croswell, \$1.00.

Clarkson Noe, \$1.00.

John Crowell, work, \$2.00.

Jonathan Randolph, \$1.00.

Phillip Brown, Jr., \$3.00.

Thomas Morris, \$1.00.

Nathan Bunn, \$5.00.

Robert Morris, \$3.00.

Samuel Jaques, \$5.00.

William Martin, work, \$5.00.

Nathaniel Bennett, \$1.00.

Cowperthwaite Moore, \$1.00.

John Barron, \$5.00.
John Brokaw, \$2.00.
David Jaques, \$5.00.
Aaron Brokaw, \$2.00.
Cornelius Brokaw, \$5.00.
Abel Clarkson, \$2.00.
James H. Marsh, \$2.00.
Ira Weeks, \$2.00.
James Jaques, \$1.00.
John Spinning, \$15.00.
George Marsh, \$2.00.
Freeman Force, \$2.00.
James Edgar, work, \$2.00.
Ephraim Harriett, work, \$5.00.
Nathan Harned, \$5.00.
Mary Cook, \$5.00.
Benjamin Drake, \$4.00.
Edward Mundy, \$3.00.
Robert Luke, work, \$2.50.
Barron Mundy, work, \$6.00.
Joseph Nesbitt, \$1.25.
James Milven, work, \$2.00.
Henry Mundy, work, \$8.00.
Thomas Crowell, \$4.00.
Thomas Crowell, \$6.00.
Samuel Kinsey, work, \$2.00.
N. Morse, \$5.00.

Henry Force, \$3.00.
Samuel Anderson, \$1.00.
Samuel Gilman, \$2.00.
William Oliver, \$10.00.
Jack Ryno, 2 days work.
Robert Marsh, \$4.00.
John Compton, \$1.00.
Joseph Stansbury, \$20.00.
Mary H. Winants, \$5.00.
Samuel Freeman, \$2.00.
John C. Marsh, \$5.00.
Abraham Flatt, \$15.00.
Ira Mundy, \$2.50.
William Ross, \$2.00.
Thomas Terrell, \$1.00.
Isaac Winants, in stone.
Isaac Stansbury \$5.00.
John Marsh, \$10.00.
William Laurence, work.
Robert Clarkson, Jr., \$2.00.
James Lambert, \$5.00.
Sarah Hetsel, \$1.00.
Samuel Force, \$3.00.
Cornelius Baker, \$3.00.
Peter Craig, \$1.00.
Thomas Brown, \$1.00.
Jane Freeman, \$10.00.

Elihu Marsh, \$5.00.
John Wainwright, \$5.00.
Nathan Harned, \$5.00.
Charles T. Tucker, \$10.00.
Merritt Martin, timber.
James De Camp, stone.
John Ludlow, stone.
Gideon De Camp, \$25.00.
Frederick Mundy, \$5.00.
James Clarksom, \$2.00.
Elias Dunning, \$1.00.
James Moore, \$5.00.
Samuel Winants, \$8.00.
James Brown, \$2.00.
Gershom Cheddick, \$14.00.
Alstain Bishop, \$2.00.
Daniel Pierson, \$4.00.
Sophia Harned, \$2.00.
Phebe Freeman, \$6.00.
Rebecca Edgar, \$2.00.
Jane Freeman, \$10.00.
Thomas Edgar, \$1.00.
John Mekan, \$1.50.
Sophia Harned, \$2.00.
Gideon De Camp, \$10.00.
Isaac Freeman, \$3.00.
Abel Jackson, \$1.00.

Edward Mundy, \$3.00.

Compton Cutts, \$5.00.

Cornelius Baker, \$3.00.

Thomas L. Brown, \$1.00.

Alexander Richards, \$2.00.

Sarah Hatfield, \$1.00.

Stephen Winants, \$2.00.

Rev. Thomas Morrill, \$5.00.

Beside the above subscriptions about \$25.00 were collected in cash, no names given.

It may seem in this age of church building that our ancestors were a long time in gaining sufficient membership and strength to build a plain cheap house of worship, but we must remember that during this period the country went through its long and arduous struggle for liberty, and that New Jersey was one of the states which suffered most, and was not able even to provide for the comfort of her soldiers; and that after the war there was a long period of depression before the country could recover from the ravages of the war,

and that the finances of the whole country were in a deplorable condition, money scarce and all industries at a low ebb.

Moreover there were few ministers of the Methodist denomination. Services, even as late as 1808, were held in Rahway but twice a month and the circuit of each minister was so large that it was impossible for him to hold revival meetings, such as in later years have done so much to increase the membership of the different churches.

Rahway was at this time but a small village and from Church street to the river was open lots, except two or three houses on the south side of Grand street.

Taking all these facts into consideration we can but admire the steadfast faith, the perseverance and devotion of these early disciples of Methodism, who for over thirty years struggled against adverse circumstances, and maintained their services and organization. The small sums subscribed

by each probably represented more or sacrifice and self denial to the subscribers than ten times that amount would represent at the present time.

In the Spring of 1808, Dr. Moses Jaques, Jr., gave the trustees a deed of the lot on which the church now stands. To a copy of this deed Mr. Terrill appends the following marginal note:

“This is the first deed from Moses Jaques, but not signed by his wife for it was thought they would not be able to raise the one thousand dollars to build the church, and if not, the lot would not be given them.”

A new deed for the same premises was made April 9th, 1810. This deed was signed by Dr. Moses Jaques, Jr. and his wife, Susannah, and, for the nominal sum of two dollars, it conveyed to “William Flatt, Abraham Flatt, Jonathan Oliver, Aaron Miller, Anthony Oliver, John Terrill, Peter Britt and their successors, trus-

tees in trust for the uses and purposes hereinafter mentioned and declared, * * * *
A certain lot and piece of ground lying and being in the town of Rahway aforesaid, adjoining the southwesterly side of the new road (so called) * * * * The trust above referred to is created in the following terms of the deed.

“To have and to hold the said lot of land in trust for the use of the members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the Township of Rahway aforesaid, or of any of the adjacent places, who may from time to time chose to attend there for the purposes of religious worship. It is further provided by these presents that the above named trustees, William Flatt, Abraham Flatt, Jonathan Oliver, Aaron Miller, Anthony Oliver, John Terrill and Peter Britt and their successors in office, as trustees, forever, shall at all times, forever hereafter permit such ministers and preachers, belonging to the said Methodist Episcopal

church as shall from time to time be duly authorized by the superintendents and conferences of the said church to preach and expound God's Holy word, and other religious duties, agreeable to the discipline of the said church, lately erected on the aforesaid lot of land without any let hindrance or molestation from the said trustees or their successors in office forever; and in further trust and confidence that as often as any one, or more of the trustees hereinbefore mentioned shall die or cease to be a member or members of the said Methodist Episcopal church by resignation or expulsion from the said church, agreeably to the discipline of the said church then and in such case it shall be the duty of the stationed preacher who has the charge of the members of said church to call a meeting of the remaining trustees as soon as conveniently may be, and by a majority of the votes of such remaining trustees to fill up such

vacancy or vacancies by and with the consent of the said stated preacher or minister, which mode of filling up the vacancies that may happen in the said board of trustees shall be observed from time to time when any vacancies may render it necessary, and such trustee or trustees (being a member, or members of the said church), so chosen as aforesaid shall in connection with the other trustees (the whole number not to exceed seven), have and hold the said lot of land and the preaching house or church erected thereon, solely for the before mentioned purposes forever.”

This deed was received in the clerk's office, 29th August, A. D. 1810, and recorded in book R, of deeds for Essex Co., pages 305, 306, 307.

SILAS CONDITT, Clerk.

We are unable to give the exact date of the erection of this first Methodist church in Rahway, but it was probably

accomplished in the Summer of 1809, or at least between the date of the deed signed by Dr. Moses Jaques and that signed by both himself and wife, as the latter deed speaks of the church having been erected on the lot.

The first meeting of the members for the purpose of electing trustees which appears in the minutes, was called by the following notice:

“ Notice is hereby given that the members of the Methodist society in the township of Rahway will meet at the Methodist chapel on Wednesday, the 28th day of February, 1810, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon for the purpose of electing trustees for the Methodist chapel agreeable to a law of this state incorporating a religious society.

Rahway, Feb. 17th, 1810.

WM. FLATT.”

At this meeting William Flatt, Jr., Jonathan Oliver, Abraham Flatt, Aaron

Miller, Anthony Oliver, John Terrill and Peter Britt were elected trustees, but the record does not say for how long a term. A certificate of incorporation was made out but was not executed.

On Wednesday, May 9th, 1810, Bishop Asbury again visited Rahway. In his journal he says: "Wednesday spoke in the new chapel at Rahway. Lord What am I? Save me from fainting under my burden! As we came out Thursday a man overtook us, halted G. P. to tell he ought to have preached against the iniquity of taking twelve per cent. interest on loans."

But although services were held in the new chapel it was by no means finished. The walls were unplastered, only the doors and windows were painted, for seats they had plain board benches, such as were used at camp-meetings, and the chapel was lighted in the evening only by tallow candles in tin candlesticks. In-

stead of the elevated pulpit which was deemed indispensable in those days, they had a small elevated platform, and the people in the broad galleries which surrounded three sides of the building could neither see the preacher nor be seen by him.

The following resolution passed by the trustees July 10, 1882 shows that an effort was made at that time to finish the church:

“Whereas Joseph Stanbury is finishing a Methodist Episcopal church at Rahway, we, the undersigned trustees of said church do invest him with full right and power to collect the within named subscription moneys, as witnesseth our hands this tenth day of July, 1812.

WM. FLATT,	}	Trustees.
PETER BRITT,		
AARON MILLER,		

The subscriptions turned over to Mr. Stansbury were unpaid subscriptions for building the church and amounted to \$127.75, but there is nothing in the records

to show how much of this was collected or what work was done at the time.

A new subscription was started in 1812 with the following preamble dated August 27:

“Whereas the ' Methodist Episcopal church in the township of Rahway is in such an unfinished state as to render it both uncomfortable and inconvenient to attend religious worship therein, the trustees to remedy the inconvenience and to make it more comfortable for those who wish to attend, have begun to finish the house, but, finding their funds inadequate to complete it are under the necessity of asking help and assistance for the completion of the work, they there earnestly solicit the charitable assistance of every denomination. Every donation will be faithfully applied and thankfully received

To this they received subscriptions amounting to \$112.50 but this was not enough to finish the church.

William Flatt, of the building committee rendered a statement of the cost of the church in February, 1813, showing the amount expended up to that time to have been \$643.03.

In 1814 another attempt was made to raise money to finish the church and \$93.75 was subscribed but it was not till two years later that the edifice was finished.

In 1816 the trustees borrowed \$50 to purchase the material and on November 30th of that year appointed Thomas Potts and Anthony Oliver a committee to employ carpenters to finish the church, and each trustee was authorized to solicit subscriptions to pay the cost.

This effort seemed likely to prove a failure as did that of 1812 when Mrs. Susan Stansbury, a widow of some means, and for many years a faithful member of the church, offered to build the pulpit if the others would contribute the money to

finish and seat the church. Mrs. Stansbury's offer was gladly accepted and in 1816 the church was completed and dedicated.

The dedication services were conducted by the Rev. Marvin Richardson and Rev. Samuel Murwin, both of New York, and was an occasion of great rejoicing among the members and congregation, who were delighted to sit in comfortable pews and listen to the eloquent and earnest words of these distinguished preachers, after worshiping over forty years in houses, barns and under trees, and six years in their unfinished church sitting on plain board seats.

In the minutes of the trustees meeting held July 29, 1816, we find the first mention of this church under the name of Liberty chapel and the name frequently appears in the minutes thereafter.

It was not until 1817 that the society was finally and legally incorporated as

will be seen from the copy of the certificate which we give below:

“This is to certify that Thomas Foster, Thomas Potts, Milan Ross, Peter Morgan, Bennett Bowman, Charles Jaques and John Decker have been duly elected trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the township of Rahway, County of Essex, and State of New Jersey, agreeably to an act of the Legislature of said state passed on the 13th day of June, 1799, to incorporate religious societies, and whereas said trustees have taken and subscribed the oaths required by law with view to become an incorporate body under the name and title as above written, to be known and designated in law as such.

“Given under our hands and seals this 27th day of February, in the year of our Lord 1817.

“ THOMAS FOSTER.	[L. S.]
“ THOMAS POTTS.	[L. S.]
“ MILAN ROSS.	[L. S.]
“ PETER MORGAN.	[L. S.]
“ BENNETT BOWMAN.	[L. S.]
“ CHARLES JAQUES.	[L. S.]
“ JOHN DECKER.	[L. S.]

“Received in the office the 7th day of March, 1817, Book A of Miscellanies for Essex County, page 114.

“SILAS WHITEHEAD, Clerk.”

The Camp-meetings held at Rahway Neck, in 1818 and 1819, were great events for the Methodists in this vicinity, and added considerably to the membership of the First church. At that time all of New Jersey and Staten Island were in one district and people came in carriages and farm wagons from all parts of the state bringing their families and their tents, prepared to remain throughout the entire session. Many who were converted at these meetings joined the churches in their respective localities and proved useful and faithful members all their lives. Many of the early members of the first M. E. Church in Rahway owe their conversion to these camp-meetings.

In 1821, the trustees purchased from Elias Stansbury a small plot of ground on the westerly side of the church for \$16.87.

This was a gore 65 feet deep, 35 feet wide at one end and 12 feet at the other.

A burying ground was located in the rear of the church soon after the purchase of this plot.

It was not until 1826 that Rahway was made a Station. The Rev. Thomas B. Sargent was the first pastor and the Rev. Manning Force was presiding elder of the district. Below we give a list of the pastors who served the different circuits to which Rahway was attached from 1774 to 1826, when it became a separate charge.

1774—William Watters.

1775—John King, Daniel Ruff.

1776—John Cooper, Robert Lindsay.

1777—Henry Kennaday, Thos. McClure,
Daniel Ruff.

1778—Philip Cox, Joshua Dudley, Daniel
Ruff.

1779—Wm. Gill, John James, Richard
Garretson.

1780—Caleb B. Pedicord, Joseph Crom-
well.

- 1781—James O. Cromwell.
1782—John Tunnell.
1783—Joseph Everett.
1784—Samuel Dudley, Wm. Phoebus,
John Hagerty, Matthew Greentree.
1785—Adam Cloud, Matthew Greentree.
1786—John McClaskey, Eziekiel Cooper,
Robert Cloud.
1787—Robert Cloud, Thos. Morrell. This
circuit embraced Elizabeth, Rahway,
Newark Belleville, Turkey (now New
Providence), and New Brunswick.
1788—John McClaskey.
1789—John Merrick, Jonathan Cooper.
1790—Jethro Johnson, Gamaliel Baley.
1791—Gamaliel Baley, Joseph Lovell.
1792—John Clark, Joseph Totten.
1793—John Ragum, Mensjas Rainor.
1794—William Pheobus, D Kendell.
1795—Thos. Bostwick, R. Hutchinson,
William Storm.
1796—John Fountain, Albert Van Nos-
trand.

1797—J. Clark, T. Merritt, J. Steward.

1798—James Tallison, Samuel Thomas,
Thomas Morrell.

1799—Thos. Everard, David Bartine. During David Bartine's itinerary meetings were held at the house of John Morris in Bricktown near where the little creek crosses the road at the left of Grand street. John Morris was father-in-law of Aaron Miller, one of the first trustees of the church.

1800—Joseph Totten, Jesse Justice.

1801—Joseph Totten, William Mills.

1802—Joseph Totten, William Mills, Samuel Thomas, Geo. Woolley, J. Stephens.

1803—Samuel Thomas.

1804—Thomas Morrell, Benjamin Thiff,
Samuel Bull.

1805—Peter Van Nest, David Bartine.

1806—William McEenahan, David Bartine.

1807—James Moore, Jacob Hevenor.

1808—James Moore, Thomas Stratton.

These are the men who were the first to commence the building of the First M. E. church in Rahway in 1808.

1809—William Smith, Thomas Stratton, John Sharpley.

1810—John Potts, James Moore.

1811—John L. Hall, Thomas Morrell.

1812—Thomas Neal, George Bonghart.

1813—Stephen Martindale, John Finley.

1814—John Robertson, John Finley.

1815—John Finley.

1816—Joseph Totten, John Potts, Daniel Moore.

1817—George Woolley, Edward Page.

1818—George Woolley, R. W. Petherbridge.

1819—Asa Smyth, Bartholemew Weed.

1820—Asa Smyth, James Long.

1821-2—Thomas Neal, Samuel S. Kennard. Mr. Kennard, who preached in the old church for two years on circuit stopped at the house of Mr. Whitehall Bull, who resided in Lower Rahway

or Liesville (Died 1860), while Kennard was on this circuit. Mr. Bull built an additional room to his house, which he dedicated as the "prophet's room," and was kept for that purpose, furnished with bedstead, chairs, Bible and other books for preachers' use until we became a station under Thomas B. Sargent.

1823—E. Jersey comprised Staten Island and Essex circuit including Elizabethtown, Rahway, Newark, New Providence and Belleville. Larry McCombs, Isaac Winner, James Polhemus.

1824—Staten Island and Essex circuit. David Best, William A. Wiggins, J. Polhemus. In 1824 Elizabethtown became a station, Robert Lutton preacher in charge, also Newark, William Thatcher, preacher in charge.

1825—David Best, William A. Wiggins.

1826-7—In 1826 Rahway was made a station. Thomas B. Sargent was ap-

pointed pastor and remained two years. Mr. Sargent was the first pastor whose services were devoted exclusively to the First Methodist Episcopal Church and his pastorate marks the opening of a new era for Methodism in Rahway.

CHAPTER IV.

IN THE OLD FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

IN regard to the organization of the Sunday-school, which was opened as soon as Rahway became a separate charge, we cannot explain it better than to quote an extract from a letter written by the first superintendent, Mr. John S. Swain.

“ I have some definite recollection of the first effort made to organize a Sunday-school. It was in the Fall of 1826. I was chosen superintendent, secretary and treasurer. In the following Spring an effort was made to get a library. A subscription was drawn up but after considerable solicitation only three dollars had



REV. FREDERICK MOONEY,
Pastor First M. E. Church.

been subscribed. The pastor, the Rev. Thomas B. Sargent, called the attention of the congregation, at the Sunday morning service, to the matter, telling them that I had the subscription paper and would be glad to receive aid for this object. The next morning Mr. M. J. Squire, who was present and heard the notice read, gave me ten dollars. With this amount, thirteen dollars in all, I went to New York and bought what books I could. These formed a nucleus of the first Rahway M. E. Sunday-school library. I remained in the school having charge of it until 1830, when I moved to Newark."

At the end of Rev. Thomas B. Sargent's first year he reported the membership of the church as one hundred and sixty white and twenty-two colored; and at the end of his pastorate the membership had fallen to one hundred and sixty-five. The next pastor, the Rev. Thomas J. Thompson, also remained two years and reported at the end of his term one hundred and thirty-eight members.

The first meeting of the quarterly conference of which we have any record was held July 11th, 1829, during the pastorate of the Rev. Thomas J. Thompson. The names of the stewards are not given and no business, other than the usual routine questions and answers, was brought before the meeting. At a meeting of the stewards held Jan. 2nd, 1830, the pastor proposed that the church should erect a house for class and prayer meetings, and the following resolution was passed:

“Resolved that Brother Thompson, the preacher in charge, be requested to call a meeting of the trustees and official members to consult together on the subject.”

This house was built on Seminary street during the pastorate of Rev. Anthony Atwood 1833-4 and the lower part was used as a Sunday-school room and the second story for a day school. This building was afterward moved to Grant street, on the

lot adjoining the church, and fitted up for a parsonage.

The Rev. William H. Bull was the next pastor and assumed charge in 1830. It was during his term the first delegate was appointed to meet with delegates from other charges in the district, to fix the salary of the Presiding Elder and to apportion the amount to be paid by each church. Milan Ross was appointed delegate. During the last year of Mr. Bull's term, Mr. J. O. Tunison was licensed to preach by Presiding Elder Pittman, and in 1834 was appointed a traveling preacher.

At the end of his first year Mr. Bull reported one hundred and eighty-one members and at the end of the second, one hundred and sixty-two. This fluctuation of membership which we find in all Methodist churches is difficult to account for, but is probably largely due to the imperfect manner of keeping the records in those early days. Sometimes, however,

the falling off in membership is due to the establishment of missions and new churches which some of the members find more conveniently located.

The Rev. William Granville succeeded Mr. Bull in 1832 and Isaac N. Felch, who was then a young man on trial was sent to assist him. Mr. Granville's salary was fixed at three hundred dollars and Mr. Felch's at one hundred dollars per year. The circuit at this time included Woodbridge, Perth Amboy, New Dover, Windmill and Strawberry Hill; five classes on preaching places beside Rahway. Each of these classes contributed towards the support of the two ministers.

In 1832 during the pastorate of the Rev. William Granville the trustees John Wilson, James Jagues, Michael Harned, Thomas Badgely, Wesley Robertson and Leonard Dunn purchased of Elias Stanbury, for one hundred and sixty-two dollars and eighty-nine cents, a plot of

ground adjoining the southwesterly side of the old burying ground, 72x221 feet. This was afterward laid out in plots and used as a cemetery for a number of years, and until it was deemed inexpedient longer to bury within the limits of the city.

During the same year the church was repaired and an addition was built to it. At the same time new seats were put in the lower part and a room partitioned off under the gallery next to the street. About the same time a resolution was passed, "that the females be seated in the middle of the church and if necessary occupy the wing on the left of the pulpit."

A committee of four was appointed, consisting of William Granville, John Wilson, James Jaques and Elias Stansbury were appointed a building committee and the following were appointed to collect subscriptions.

Thomas Badgley to collect on the old county road and west of the same.

John Wilson to collect in the neighborhood of Bricktown.

Michael Harned, in Mechanic street.

Wesley Robertson, in Bridgetown.

James Jaques, in Leetown.

Leonard Dunn, in Milton.

Elias Stansbury, to collect generally.

To complete these improvements, five hundred dollars were raised on bond and mortgage on the church and lot, which was afterward, in 1834, transferred to the Sunday-school house and lot.

Mr. Granville remained but one year, and at the end of his term reported two hundred and thirty members, a gain of seventy-eight.

The Rev. Anthony Atwood was appointed pastor in 1834, and served two years. During his pastorate Woodbridge and Amboy were set off as a separate station. At this time the stewards and leaders began holding monthly meetings as well as quarterly conferences. At the

close of Mr. Atwood's term there were one hundred and ninety nine members. Mr. Atwood gave his personal attention to the Sunday-school and left it in a flourishing condition with over a hundred and sixty scholars on the roll. During his second year a camp-meeting in which the Newark station was invited to assist was held at a place near Rahway called Goose-town, and was the means of adding a considerable number to the church.

The Rev. John Nicholson was the next pastor. He remained but one year. At the first quarterly conference, Presiding Elder Matthias recommended the formation of a society to be called the "Rahway Benevolent Institution of the Methodist Episcopal Church," embracing the publication fund, the Missionary, Bible, Tract and Sunday-school societies, and to be auxiliary to the parent society of the M. E. church. This recommendation was adopted unanimously. A constitution

was adopted and the society regularly organized.

The salary of the pastor was fixed at four hundred dollars. There was but little change in the membership during Mr. Nicholson's year.

The Rev. J. Buckley was appointed in 1836. At this time the Sunday-school was reported as having been in a low state during the past winter, but at present in a prosperous condition with an average attendance of forty scholars. There seems to have been a great falling off since Mr. Atwood's time.

In 1837, the New Jersey conference was formed and divided into three districts, West Jersey, East Jersey and Asbury. Rahway was placed in the East Jersey district and the Rev. William A. Wilmer was appointed pastor. The following year the conference was divided into five districts, Newark, Paterson, Rahway, Trenton and Camden, and Mr. Wilmer

was returned to the Rahway charge. During the first year of Mr. Wilmer's pastorate a resolution was passed to purchase a parsonage if one could be found, suitable as to location and price, but no further action was taken at that time so it is presumed that such a house as they required could not be purchased.

While the Rev. A. Atwood was stationed here, 1833 and 1834, he built himself a house on Seminary street opposite the church property. The trustees wished to buy the house for a parsonage but Mr. Atwood declined to sell as he intended to make Rahway his residence if he should leave active service in the ministry. As no other suitable house could be found this was rented and used a long time as a parsonage. Later Mr. Atwood sold the house to other parties.

Mr. Wilmer reported one hundred and seventy-four members at the close of his pastorate.

The Rev. Jefferson Lewis came in 1839 and remained only one year. At the close of his term he reported only one hundred and forty-seven members, the smallest membership since 1820.

The Rev. Isaac N. Felch, who was here in 1832, as assistant to the Rev. William Granville, became the stationed pastor in 1840, and remained two years. Under his pastorate we find the first complete list of members, entered in such a manner as to show the entire list with probationers separate from full members. During his first year he conducted a very successful revival, seventy-two persons joining the church on probation. During his second year this number was increased to one hundred and eighteen. At the close of his term he reported two hundred and twenty-six in full membership. Mr. Felch was as successful with the Sunday-school as with the church, for under his ministration the school increased to one

hundred and thirty scholars and twenty-four teachers, and had three hundred and twenty-five volumes in the library.

The Rev. Thomas Sovereign followed Mr. Felch in 1842, and at the close of his first year the membership had increased to two hundred and seventy-six. This was no doubt partly due to many of the probationers, received by Mr. Felch, having been admitted to full membership. Mr. Sovereign's pastorate, however, was eminently successful as during his first year he received sixty-two on probation, the greater portion of whom were afterward found worthy of full membership.

The Rev. Vincent Sheppard served as pastor 1844 and 1845. In his second year he was assisted by the Rev. Alexander Gilmore who was on the supernumerary list. During his pastorate the gallery was lowered and new seats put in, and other changes made in the interior of the church.

About this time a subscription was start-

ed to raise money to purchase a parsonage. Three hundred and fifty dollars were subscribed with the prospect of being able to increase the amount to five hundred dollars. When the Rev. George Winsor, Jr., came to the charge, in 1846, another effort was made to raise money for the parsonage, but action was finally postponed. At the close of this pastorate there were two hundred and seventy-three members on the church roll and one hundred and thirty scholars in the Sunday-school and six hundred and eighty-five volumes in the Sunday-school library.

The Rev. James Ayars was the next pastor. He remained only one year. During his pastorate the trustees purchased from William Tuslee for three hundred and seventy-five dollars the lot adjoining the church on Grand street, fifty-four feet and six inches front by one hundred and fifty feet deep. The building on Seminary street was moved to this lot,

enlarged and fitted up as a parsonage and the Sunday-school was moved to the gallery of the church.

On September 23rd, 1848, the trustees passed a resolution to lay out and grade the new burial ground and to sell the same to liquidate the parsonage debt, also to give Isaac Osborn a mortgage of eight hundred dollars on the parsonage as security for bank notes, which he had given, on account of the parsonage.

This was the last year in which all the Methodists of Rahway worshiped in the same church, and the membership at the close of Mr. Ayars' year was forty-four probationers and two hundred and forty-eight in full connection. The Sunday-school had one hundred and forty scholars and twenty-three teachers.

The next pastorate, that of James H. Dandy, saw the birth of a new church in Rahway. A number of members of the First church living in what was then

called upper Rahway desired to form a new society and asked for letters of dismissal from the old church for that purpose. Their request was granted and the seceding members formed what is now Trinity Methodist Episcopal church. This materially weakened the mother church both in numbers and in financial resources, and she began her next year with only one hundred and fifty-eight members and two probationers, and the new church with forty-seven members and sixty-nine probationers. Mr. Dandy's salary was four hundred dollars and donation visit.

From 1850 to 1854 the membership of the old church continued to decrease year by year and the membership of the new church to increase in nearly the same ratio.

The salary during this period was for the most part four hundred dollars and house rent or four hundred dollars and a

donation visit which should amount to at least one hundred and fifty dollars.

On February 14th, 1850, the trustees made the following report of their indebtedness:

Mortgage on parsonage,	\$800.00.
Interest on same,	64.00.
Note to Alfred Stone,	417.47.
Balance for finishing parsonage,	25.29.
Total	\$1,306.76.

In the minutes of this meeting we find the church first spoken of as the First M. E. church of Rahway.

These debts appear to have been nearly all paid or provided for during the following year, leaving the church practically free of debt.

The Rev. Joseph Chattle served as pastor in 1850 and 1851. He was succeeded in 1852 by the Rev. C. Talley, who remained but one year.

The Rev. Richard Rusling followed Mr.

Talley and served during the years 1853 and 1854. At this time the membership was one hundred and twenty, and seven on probation.

The following letter from the Rev. Charles Larue, who was pastor during the years 1855 and 1856, will be read with interest:

May 10th, 1898.

"I was sent to the Upper Rahway church in the spring of 1855. The membership at that time consisted largely of elderly people, the younger and more active portion having withdrawn to form the new church at Lower Rahway.

For years the conference had appointed elderly men to the pastorate. The church raised the money for current expenses by renting the pews and the appointment came to be called "A Sailors' Snug Harbor" for old preachers.

"In the spring of 1855 they petitioned for me as a younger preacher. I found a number of devout and ripe Christians, and a number of them well furnished with this world's goods.

“At my solicitation the pews were made free, and the congregation improved. We held meetings in the winter though few were converted.

“In the spring of 1856 the old church was torn down and a new, a larger, edifice was commenced. And I remember that the brothers, Isaac William Osborn, headed the subscription with \$1,000 each. The building was erected and the basement finished in the fall after which the public services were held therein. During the summer they were held in the Presbyterian church, through the kindness of the pastor and trustees.

“The next spring, my time having expired, Rev. David Teed was appointed.

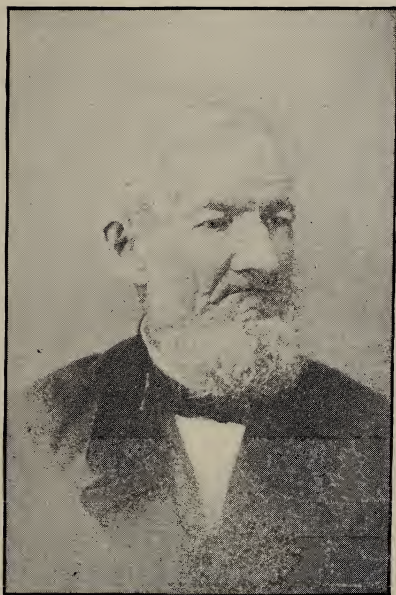
“It was in 1857 that the church was dedicated. I remember the presence of Dr. Wiley, afterward Bishop; Dr. Jesse T. Peck, afterward Bishop, and Dr. Dashiell. I have forgotten who preached in the morning. Dr. Peck preached in the afternoon and I was put on at night. Dr. Dashiell, of course, was the manager of the collections.

“The house and lot next to the church westward was owned by the church as a parsonage and I think free of debt.

Bro. Stone was then an old man of very sturdy character and deeply religious. He came to us from the Episcopal church many years before. He departed while I was the pastor. It was he, with his accustomed keen wit, who in reply to one of the former pastors who in a fit of impatience had said in an official meeting “your’s is only a second rate appointment anyhow.” “So I should think” retorted Bro. Stone, “by the kind of preachers they send us.” I would enjoy speaking or writing of a number of the old friends of Upper Rahway, but I must forbear.”

The preacher in the morning, whose name Mr. Larue had forgotten, was the Rev. Thomas B. Sargent, who was the first pastor after the church became a station.

The first official action taken by the board of trustees towards building a new church was on June 17, 1856, when the



THE LATE ISAAC OSBORNE.

following resolution was passed unanimously, the full board being present:

“Resolved, That we build a new brick church fifty-feet front by seventy feet deep, said church to have a gallery at the sides.

“Resolved, That the old church be advertised and sold to the highest bidder, reserving the seats up and down stairs, with the pulpit, altar-railing and inside doors to entrance.

“Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed as a building committee to superintend the building of said church, that committee to be the following persons: Isaac Osborn, William H. Flatt, Francis E. Terrill.”

This plan was modified and a gallery built across the front for the choir and none on the sides.

Below we give a list of subscribers giving ten dollars or more to the building fund of the new church. There may possibly be other lists or other subscribers

but these are the only ones that we can find.

Isaac Osborn, \$1,000.

William Osborn, \$1,000.

Alfred Stone, \$250.

Francis E. Terrill, \$300.

Daniel Ross, \$100.

John B. Price, \$100.

James T. Terrill, \$100.

William E. Terrill, \$100.

William E. Potter, \$100.

Robert Simpson, \$100.

Amos T. Robertson, \$100.

William H. Flatt, \$300.

Joseph T. Crowell, \$100.

Ralph Marsh, \$100.

Isaac F. Marsh, \$50.

John High, \$50.

David Rogers, \$50.

John Clay, \$50.

John E. Denman, \$50.

Wesley Baldwin, \$15.

John Honnowell, \$10.

Smith Coddington, \$10.

William M. Esler, \$10.

John D. Chapin, \$10.

John Urmston, \$10.
Augustus E. Lang, \$10.
Daniel E. Randolph, \$10.
Samuel T. White, \$10.
George J. Trusler, \$10.
John P. Mills, \$10.
A. W. B. Monroe, \$10.
Dr. S. Cook, \$10.
E. D. Woodruff, \$10.
Milan Ross, \$10.
Thomas H. Shaffer, \$10.
James O. Halsey, \$10.
John C. Ludlow, \$10.
Edon Haydock, \$10.
Nicholas Mooney, \$10.
John Honewell, \$25.
F. M. Belding, \$25.
I. P. Tingley, \$25.
John Randolph, \$30.
John H. Duren, \$25.
Thomas A. Lee, \$25.
George H. Martin, \$25.
John R. Ayers, \$25.
I. P. Smith, \$25.
Jonathan Thompson, \$25.
A. C. Watson, \$25.
J. & A. Woodruff & Co., \$25.

F. Osborn, \$30.

Henry Silvers, \$25.

R. De Camp, \$10.

L. Bumgartner, \$10.

Oackley, \$10.

T. Abernethy, \$10.

Milan Ross, \$10.

James I. Bell, \$10.

Archer Miller, \$10.

H. N. Oliver, \$20.

J. Garthwait, \$20.

John Morrill, \$10.

Joel Osborn, \$10.

The corner stone was laid August 1, 1856.

The contract for building the church was given to Isaac Osborn, he agreeing to build the new church complete, except blinds, and paint it for ten thousand dollars and the old church and lecture room. The entire cost of the church, as given in Mr. Osborn's statement, to the trustees, was eleven thousand nine hundred and forty-six dollars and sixteen cents, but this included blinds and such items as

lamps, flagging, insurance, cushions, and many other charges not properly included in the cost of the church. Of this amount \$4,000 was secured by a mortgage on the church and the balance paid in subscriptions while the church was being built or soon afterward.

The church as finished was practically as it stands to-day, except that the main entrance in front was in the basement, with steps leading from the vestibule to the auditorium.

At the General Conference of 1856 the New Jersey conference was divided, and the Newark conference formed, the latter comprising the northern part of the state and portions of New York; and the following year, 1857, the Rev. David Teed was sent to the First M. E. church, of Rahway.

He remained two years and during his first year he had a most successful revival, through which one hundred and twenty-nine persons joined the church

on probation. At the end of his term the membership had increased from one hundred and thirty-three, to one hundred and ninety-six. The Sunday-school numbered one hundred and thirty scholars and twenty-five officers and teachers.

The benevolences for his last year notwithstanding the great expense of building a new church, which the congregation had so recently met, amounted to two hundred and seventy-two dollars and forty cents. Mr. Teed was followed by the Rev. William Day. At the end of his first year two hundred and twenty-two members were reported, the largest of any year from the formation of Trinity church to the present time and his salary was increased to seven hundred and fifty dollars. But there was a great falling off in benevolences which amounted to only sixty-one dollars and fifty cents. The church property at this time was valued at \$15,000 and the parsonage at \$3,000.

On March 1859 the trustees passed a resolution inviting the annual conference to hold its next session (1860) in Rahway. This invitation was accepted a year later. The annual conference of 1861 was held in this church, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ames presiding, and the residents of the city gave a warm welcome and cordial entertainment to both clergy and laity.

The Rev. R. B. Yard came in 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War. He remained but two months when he was appointed chaplain in the army and the Rev. Nicholas Vansant was sent to fill out the remainder of the year.

Mr. Vansant gives the following account of his pastorate:

“ My pastorate at the First church, Rahway, was a very brief one, covering the nine months between June, 1861 and April, 1862. The circumstances connected with my appointment to that charge, are sufficiently detailed in my book, “ Sunset Memories.” Those trou b

lous war times had inflicted upon that church a double bereavement, the loss of its beloved pastor, Rev. Robert B. Yard, who had been appointed a chaplain in the United States Army, and the far heavier loss to the whole place of its large manufacturing business and financial thrift. These sudden losses so serious and so hapless, but not hopeless, had brought that church to the condition of Gideon and his heroic three hundred, whose invincible courage has come down to us enshrined in the golden historic sentence, "Faint, yet pursuing." Notably true was this of First church, Rahway, in the spring of 1861.

"The question of strengthening the things that remained in the edification of believers and the conversion of sinners, very far outweighed all questions of salary and mere financial progress; yet the pastor's support (\$400 for the nine months) was paid promptly and cheerfully, while all the benevolent collections were raised without undue pressure, several of them, s t h e Missionary, Bible and Conference

Claimants, being in excess of the previous year. Nor was the membership materially reduced in number, the Conference Minutes of 1862 showing a total of 174 as against 186 the year before, the number of probationers being 14. Under the peculiar circumstances a much greater shrinkage would not have been surprising; and that the list of probationers was no larger resulted from other causes than a lack of earnest and persistent effort."

Mr. Vansant was succeeded by the Rev. John I. Morrow who remained two years. At the close of his term the membership had fallen to one hundred and twenty-nine but the benevolences had increased to over one hundred dollars. There were one hundred scholars in the Sunday-school and twenty-four officers and teachers. The pastor's salary was five hundred dollars.

In 1864 the name of the district was changed from Rahway, which it had borne since 1838, to Elizabeth district. Under

the next pastor, the Rev. David Graves, the church seems to have enjoyed a new era of prosperity. He remained three years, from 1864 to 1866. In each year of his pastorate he conducted successful revivals and at the end of his term there were one hundred and seventy-four members and seventy probationers. There were one hundred and ninety scholars in the Sunday-school and thirty-six officers and teachers. The benevolences amounted to one hundred and ninety-eight dollars for his last year, beside two hundred and eighty-two dollars contributed to the centenary fund. The church was valued at thirty thousand dollars, the parsonage at four thousand dollars and the pastor received a salary of one thousand dollars.

On June 29th, 1866, the trustees authorized the president of the board to borrow the sum of \$310, on a bank note and pay the balance of the \$4,000 mortgage placed

on the church when it was built. This was done and the mortgage satisfied and cancelled.

In 1867 the steeple was repainted, the walls repaired, the grounds graded and other repairs made. To meet the expenses of these repairs \$1,000 were raised on the note of the trustees. In 1870, during the same pastorate, a mortgage of \$1,500 at seven per cent. interest was placed on the parsonage to settle outstanding claims. This mortgage finally resulted in the loss of the parsonage and the lot on Seminary street.

During the two years' pastorate of the Rev. George W. Treat 1867-9 there was a slight falling off in membership, and in the Sunday school but an increase in the benevolences. During the Rev. J. M. Tuttle's term in 1869-71 the membership increased from one hundred and forty to one hundred and sixty. The benevolences reached probably the highest figure

in the history of the church, three hundred and eighty-seven dollars, and the pastor's salary was increased to twelve hundred dollars.

The Rev. H. D. Opdyke was appointed pastor in 1871 and remained three years. During the early part of his pastorate the stewards passed a resolution that only unfermented wine should be used upon the communion table. They also recommended that the trustees should sell the lot on Seminary street, and also to sell the whole church property in order to perfect the title. This was during the panic of 1873 and the hard times following. The city had spent large sums of money in grading, paving and sewerage the streets, and was deeply in debt, business was paralyzed and real estate could hardly be sold at any price. The church property, except the parsonage had been bought with a perpetual trust clause in the deed allowing it to be used for church

purposes only. In 1873, by an act of the legislature the trust clause was set aside and it was proposed to sell the entire property and buy it back, taking an absolute deed in fee simple in order that money might be raised by sale of the lot on Seminary street or by a mortgage on the church, to meet pressing claims.

On April 21, 1874, the church and lot on Seminary street were sold to Francis E. Terrill and on the same day Mr. Terrill gave the trustees a warranty deed of the property without any conditions of trust or limitation. During Mr. Opdyke's pastorate a large sum was expended in improvements. The main entrance, which had been in the basement, was raised nearly to a level with the audience room, with a broad flight of steps leading up to the front doors, and the interior was remodelled and fitted up in a most artistic and attractive manner. To raise the money for these improvements the trus-

tees borrowed \$1,863.97 on their notes and a mortgage.

On March 4, 1874, the present corporate seal was adopted.

At the end of Mr. Opdyke's last year the membership was two hundred, beside fifty-six probationers. The salary during his pastorate was fifteen hundred dollars except the last year when it was reduced to twelve hundred.

At the last quarterly conference of his term the trustees made the following report of assets and liabilities:

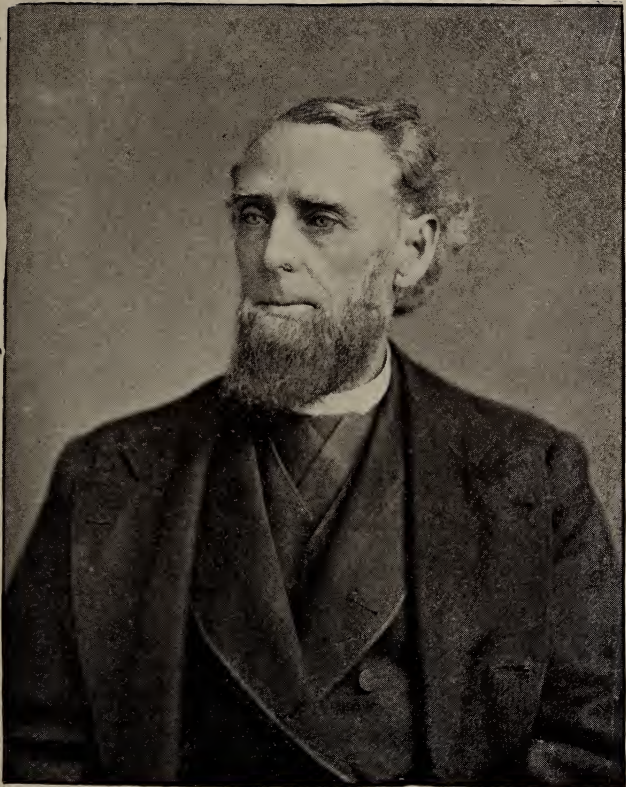
ASSETS.

Church and lot	\$20,000
Parsonage	3,500
Lots on Seminary street . .	1,150

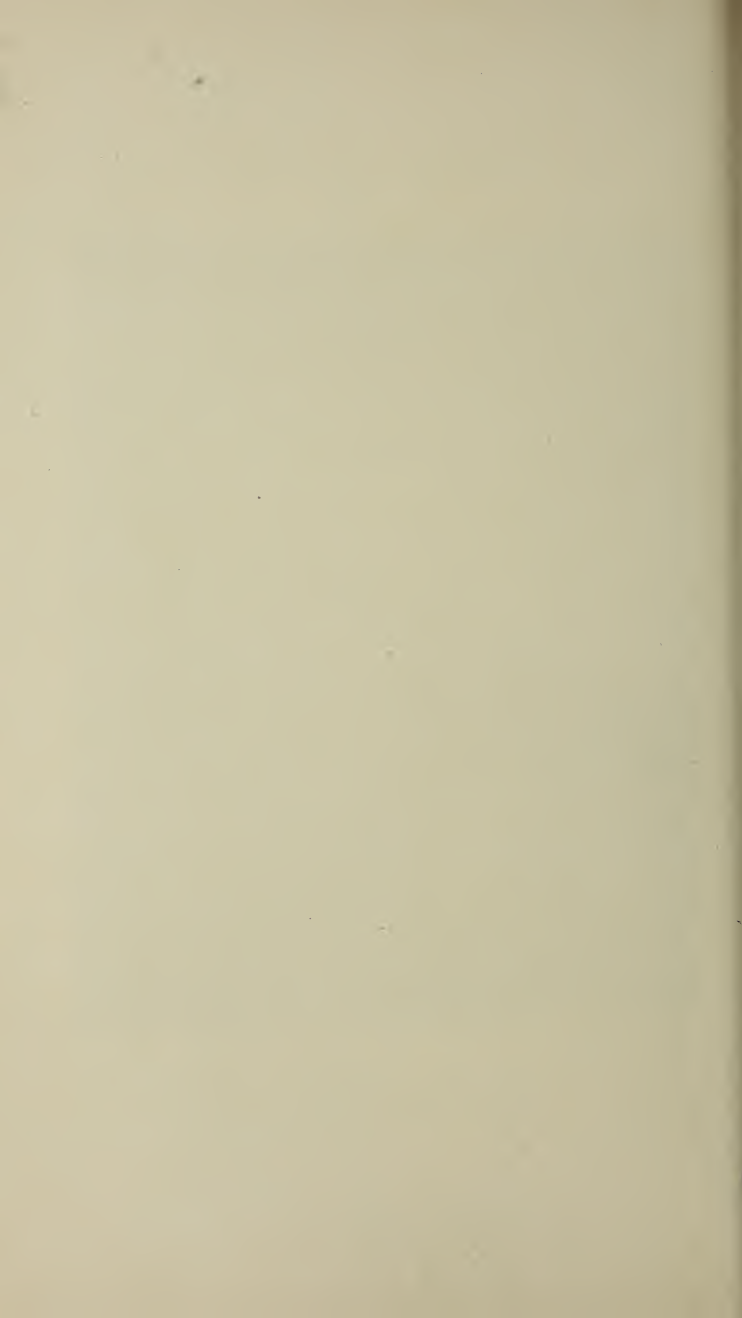
Total	\$24,650
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LIABILITIES.

Mortgages	\$2,000
Trustees' notes.	1,363 97
Taxes for improvements on Grand street	1,200



THE LATE REV. JEREMIAH COWINS,
Died at Bound Brook, N. J., Feb. 3, 1897, aged 67 years;
Forty-one years in the Ministry.



Taxes for improvements on	
Seminary street	297
Total	\$4,860 97

The next pastor was the Rev. Alexander Craig who remained two years 1874-75, during which time the membership dropped to one hundred and seventy. The salary was reduced to one thousand dollars. This was during the hard times which followed the panic of 1873. The statement of the indebtedness of the church made in January, 1877, during the first year of the pastorate of the Rev. George Winsor, shows that at this time the total indebtedness was \$4,741 84.

The Rev. E. C. Dutcher was the next pastor. He remained three years from 1879-81. During his pastorate considerable money was spent on the improvement of the church property. The entire roof, which was of slate, was removed, and a foundation laid of matched boards

covered with tar paper and then the slate replaced. The entire cost of this and other improvements made at the time was nearly one thousand dollars, of which Isaac Osborn, Everitt Terrill and John Terrill each contributed one hundred dollars.

The Rev. Richard Johns was pastor two years, 1882-4. The financial statement of the trustees made in December, 1882, gives the bonded debt, \$3,112.50; floating debt, \$672.94; city improvement assessments, \$1,660.63. During this pastorate the parsonage was sold under foreclosure for \$1,050 leaving a deficiency, including costs and back interest of about \$700, through which the church ultimately lost the lot on Seminary street.

By a persistent and heroic effort, after the sale of the parsonage, money was collected to pay off the floating debt and back interest leaving only the mortgage of \$1,500 on the church.

In 1884 the Rev. H. D. Opdyke was sent for a second term to this church, but remained only one year when he was followed by the Rev. Jerimiah Cowins. During the latter pastorate the church mortgage was paid and the church for the first time in many, many years found itself free of debt. In order to accomplish this Mr. Isaac Osborn gave eight hundred dollars on condition that the church should never be mortgaged again. This mortgage has, however, not been satisfied on the records in the office of the county clerk.

The Rev. R. F. Hayes served as pastor five years, from 1888 to 1893. Three years as stated pastor and two years as supply. During that time he received fifty members on probation and twenty-five in full connection. During his term the church was repainted and other improvements made costing about three hundred and fifty dollars. There were

one hundred and five scholars in the Sunday-school, the salary of the pastor averaged about seven hundred dollars per year. In 1893 during the pastorate of the Rev. L. R. Dunn, new gas pipes, new chandeliers and side lights were put in, the ceiling papered and other improvements made, costing altogether four hundred and sixty-eight dollars. Mr. Dunn held a successful revival and at the end of his year the membership had increased to one hundred and twenty, with thirty-six on probation.

The Rev. W. B. Judd came to this church in 1894 and returned in 1895. He left in June of that year and the Rev. W. M. Fanton, then a student in the Drew Seminary, was sent by the presiding elder to fill out the balance of the year. When Mr. Judd graduated from Drew Seminary, he stood highest in his class, and was therefore entitled to a year's study in Europe, at the expense of the Seminary

He chose this time for taking his course abroad. During Mr. Fanton's term the new organ, now used by the choir, was purchased. The next pastor was the Rev. G. H. Winans. At the close of Mr. Winan's term the membership had fallen to ninety-one and the Sunday-school to one hundred and twenty-eight scholars, and eighteen officers and teachers.

He was succeeded in 1897 by the Rev. W. T. Helmes. Mr. Helmes conducted a successful revival, during which twenty-three joined the church on probation. In January, 1898, he was appointed Chaplain in the United States Navy and recently has been promoted to chaplaincy of our greatest warship, the Oregon.

The Rev. L. J. Gordon was appointed to fill out the unexpired term. At the end of this year the membership had increased to one hundred and fourteen. The conference in 1898 appointed the Rev. F. C. Mooney to serve through the

Centennial year of the history of this church. Mr. Mooney and his congregation at once set about making preparations for celebrating the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the church in a suitable manner. The first work in this direction was that of re-covering all the cushions in the Auditorium, and the second was the compiling and publishing a complete history of Methodism from the time of the preaching of the first Methodist sermon in Rahway in 1774.

The material for covering the cushions was donated by Messrs. Taylor & Bloodgood through Mr. G. S. Cuttle, and the work was done by the ladies of the church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

OFFICERS—G. M. Larrison, superintendent; Geo. Chamberlin, secretary; R. F. Marsh, treasurer; Harry Laing, librarian; Wm. Hardy, assistant librarian; Mrs. J. Housman, organist.

BIBLE CLASS—Rev. F. C. Mooney, teacher.



REV. W. M. FANTON.

Mrs. J. L. Vincent, Mrs. Nettie Williams, Mrs. M. A. Hoff, Mrs. Ella Lawrence, Mrs. Phebe Terrill, Mrs. Geo. Van Sickles, Mrs. Geo. S. Cuttle, Mrs. Alfred Pearce, Miss Hattie Osborn, Miss Alice Osborn, Miss Susie Price, Mrs. Geo. Lawrence.

CLASS No. 2—Mrs. G. S. Cuttle, teacher. Miss Nettie Marsh, Miss Mamie Larrison, Miss Caddie Muddell, Mrs. Lizzie Weldon, Mrs. Susie Cuttle, Mrs. A. L. Chase, Miss May Cuttle.

CLASS No. 3—Mr. F. Housman, teacher. Charlie Sing, Chin Tong.

CLASS No. 4—Miss Laura Wright, teacher. James Manning, Allie Coventree, John Marsh, Lewis Reuben, Willie Price.

CLASS No. 5—Miss J. Ryne, teacher. Nettie Price, Bertha Stagg, Mabel Marson, Nettie Conrad, Ethel Clark, Florence Clark, Anna Yarnell.

CLASS No. 6—Mrs. Westfall, teacher. Miss Cassie Derrevere, Miss Ella Randolph, Miss Lillie Yarnall, Miss Maud Lucas, Miss Eva Terrill, Miss Annie Jaenke, Miss Edith Kling, Miss Ollie Robson.

CLASS No. 7—Miss Emma Randolph, teacher. Nettie Ryno, Belle Westervelt, Sadie Bernharat, Gertrude Vincent, Edith Pierre, Ida Bedman.

CLASS No. 8—Mr. Henry Ulrich, teacher. Arthur Terrill, Harry Suiter, John Durand, George McChesney.

CLASS No. 9—Mrs. Bernhard, teacher. Alice Marson, Edith Brindley, Agnes Conrad.

CLASS No. 10—Miss F. La Forge, teacher. Amy Price, Ethel Macann, Elsie Kling, Nellie Dougherty.

CLASS No. 11—Mrs. J. Housman, teacher. Alma Paulsen, Beatrice Hardy, Lulu Hardy, Lilian Suiter, Ella Suiter, Iva Kelly.

CLASS No. 13—Mrs. W. H. Hardy, teacher. Grace Freer, Susie High, Addie High.

CLASS No. 12 (Infant Class)—Miss M. Putnam, teacher; Mrs. G. Freeman, assistant teacher. Flossie Price, Freda Brown, Grace Marsh, Bess Marsh, Fannie Conrad, Edna Conrad, Harold Williams, Lester Freeman, Clarence Jacobson, Willie Cuttle, Freddie Kling, Florence Styles, Alice Kling, Geo. Hardy, Frankie Clark, Raymond Clark, Arthur Coventree, Edith Terrill, Richard Awe, Katie Stevens, Susie Stevens, Gladys Williams, Richard Stevens, Bert Marson, Jennie Wright, Mildred Terrill, Vina Place.

EPWORTH LEAGUE, WESLEY CHAPTER 12640:

Mr. Alferd Pearce, president; Miss Julia Ry-
no, first vice-president; Miss Nettie Marsh,

second vice-president; Mrs. John Housman, third vice-president; Miss Cassie Dererere, fourth vice-president; Miss Gertrude Vincent, treasurer; Mrs. G. A. Laurence, secretary; Miss Nettie Marsh, Mrs. Wm. Clarkson, Mrs. W. Weldon, Mrs. W. Vincent, Miss Mettie Ryno, Mrs. Bernhart, Miss Sadie Bernhart, Miss Gertrude Vincent, Miss Julia Ryno, Miss Mattie Putman, Miss Cassie Dererere, Mr. Alfred Pearce, Mrs. Alfred Pearce, Mr. Harry Laing, Mrs. Chass, Miss Clara Mudell, Mrs. J. Housman, Mrs. G. A. Laurence, Miss Nettie Williams, Miss Ella Randolph, Miss Mae Cuttle, Mrs. Joshua Cuttle, Miss Anna Simpson, Mr. Geo. Chamberlain, Mr. Nathan Randolph, Mr. Crew, Mrs. Crew, Mr. Hardy, Mrs. Hardy, Miss Ida Bedmen, Mr. Oakletree.

JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE:

Miss M. M. Putnam, superintendent; Miss Westfall, assistant superintendent; Edith Brindley, Edith Kling, Olive Robson, Eva Terrill, Annie Jankye, Lillian Suiter, Iva Kelley, Agnes Conrad, Ethel McCann, Nettie Price, Lulu Hardy, Beatrice Hardy, Nellie Dougherty, Florence Clark, Ethel Clark, Grace Pierre, Elsie Kling, Alice Kling, Freddie Kling, Fletcher Brown, Freda Brown, Frank Clark, Cassie Jaberg, Jennie Jaberg,

Ella Suiter, Raymond Clark, Louie Rubin, Willie Cuttle, Amy Price, Flossy Price, Grace Freer, Edna Conrad, Fannie Conrad, Florence Stiles, Nettie Conrad, Bertie Assman, Katie Stephens, Susie Stephens, Elsie Haliday, Agnes Haliday, Geneva Hetfield, May Keyes, Susie High, Addie High, George Hardy, Mabel Marson, Mamie Shier.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY:

Miss Mattie Putnam, president; Mrs. N. Laing, vice-president; Miss Julia Ryno, secretary, Mrs. John Bernhard, treasurer; Miss F. La Forge, Mrs. George. Van Sickles, Mrs. George Campbell, Mrs. W. R. Marsh, Miss Emma Randolph, Mrs. J. Randolph, Mrs. Alfred Pearce, Mrs. Barker, Mrs. George Cuttle, Mrs. George Wright, Miss Phebe Terrill, Miss Maggie Thompson, Mrs. Hawthorn, Rev. F. C. Mooney. Mr. Alfred Pearce.

S. S. MISSIONARY SOCIETY:

Miss Nellie Westervelt, president; Miss Sadie Bernhard, treasurer; Miss Cassie Derrevere, secretary.

STEWARDS:

Ira Osborn, Andrew Miller, Wm. R. Marsh, Miss M. M. Putnam, Mr. Geo. M. Larrison, Miss Julia A. Ryno, Miss Frances Laforge, Mrs. John Housman, Mrs. G. S. Cuttle, Mrs



William H. Wright. Henry S. Terrill. George M. Larrison. Harry Laing. Henry Ulrich.
Andrew Miller. George S. Cuttle, Pres. Ira Osborn, Sec.-Treas. Russell Hall.

John Bernhard, Mrs. Noe Laing.

TRUSTEES:

Geo. S. Cuttle, president; Ira Osborn, secretary and treasurer; Andrew Miller, Geo. M. Larrison, Henry S. Terrill, Harry Laing, Russell Hall, Henry Ulrich, William Wright.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

Bernhard, Mrs. John.
Bomford, Mrs. Sarah.
Brown, Thomas C.
Brindley, Margaret.
Campbell, George.
Campbell, Caroline.
Clarkson, Mrs. Jennie.
Coulter, Mrs. Margaret.
Clark, Hester N.
Cuttle Mrs. Geo. S.
Cuttle Mrs. Jennie.
Clark, Mrs. Mary.
Chamberlain, George.
Crue, Isaac.
Crue, Mary A.
Chase, Mrs. Fannie.
Derrevere, Matthias.
Derrevere, Elizabeth.
Derrevere, Cassie.
Fagan, Jane.

Frazee, Amanda.
Gage, Sarah T.
Gorham, Lucinda.
Gorham, Charles.
Helms, Rev. W. T.
Harriman, Wm. P.
Hirst, Martha.
Hawkins, Agnes.
Hall, Russell.
Hall, Mary.
Harris, Wm. A.
Harris, Mary E.
Harned, Amelia Ann.
Housman, Mrs. Cornelia.
Hoff, Martha.
Kelly, Finetta V.
Laforge, Miss Frances.
Laing, Mrs. Fannie.
Larrison, Geo. M.
Larrison, Mrs.
Lawrence, Bessie.
Leonard, Celia.
Lee, Ann E.
Lee Thos. A.
Lee, Susan H.
Long, Nellie.
Lum, Mary E.
Marsh, Isaac F.

Marsh, Anna Maria.
Marsh, Wm. R.
Marsh, Mary H.
Marsh, Nettie.
McCormick, Mrs. J. A.
Metcalf, Catherine.
Miller, Miss Mary.
Miller, Mrs. Mary.
Miller, Andrew.
Morrell, Martha.
Muddell, Clara P.
Osborn, Ira.
Osborn, Harriet.
Osborn, Alice.
Osborn, Addie.
Osborn, Mrs. Rebecca.
Ovens, Eliza.
Ochiltree, Jane.
Ochiltree, Jas. H.
Ochiltree, Wm. J.
Pearce Alfred.
Pearce, Mrs. Alfred.
Pangborn, Mrs.
Pierce, Ella.
Pierre, Francis.
Place, Sylvester.
Price, Susie.
Price, Louisa.

Putnam, Martha M.
Randolph, John.
Randolph, Jane.
Randolph, Emma J.
Randolph, Elizabeth A.
Randolph, John O.
Randolph, Carrie.
Robertson, Annie D.
Robertson, W. C.
Ross, Mrs. Mary J.
Ryno, Eleazer.
Ryno, Elizabeth O.
Ryno, Julia A.
Ryno, Myra M.
Saling, J. W.
Saling, Flora.
Simpson, Anna.
Swain, Rebecca.
Syckles, Matilda.
Stevens, Annie.
Stevens, Richard.
Terrill, Wm. Jr.
Terrill, Phebe R.
Terrill, Cornelia.
Terrill, Henry S.
Tucker, Joanna.
Ulrich, Henry.
Van Sickles, Phebe A.

Vincent, Anthony.
Vincent, Mrs. J. L.
Vincent, Gertrude.
Whitehead, Ann E.
Whitehead, Minnie.
Westervelt, Elizabeth.
Williams Nettie.
Wright, Amanda R.
Weldon, Mrs. Elizabeth.
Wilson, John.
Wilson, Mrs. John.

PROBATIONERS.

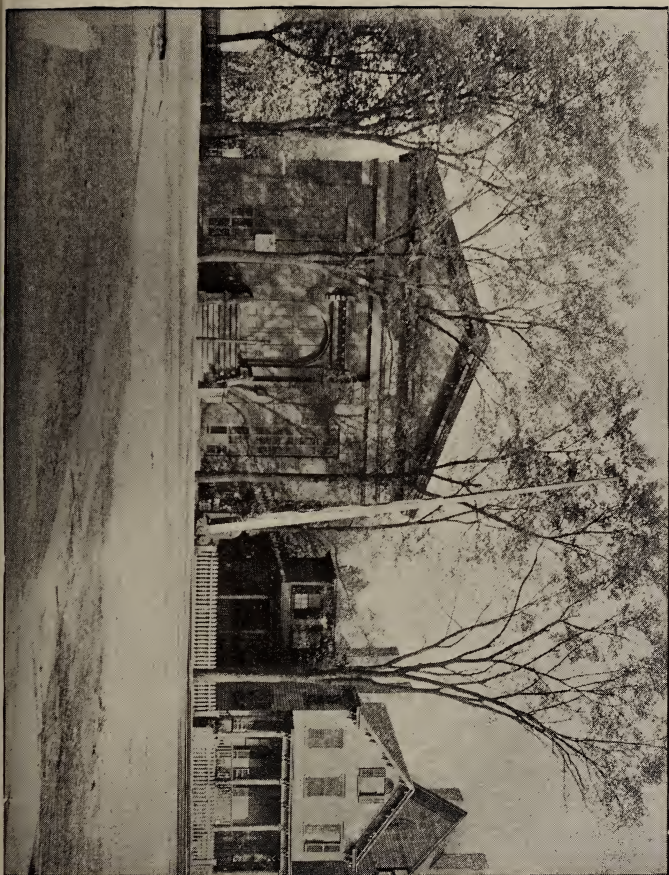
Mondrain, Cornelius.
Mondrain, Phebe C.
Hardy, Mrs. Lulu E.
Suiter, Harry.

TRINITY M. E. CHURCH,
RAHWAY N. J.

CHAPTER V.

TRINITY—ORGANIZATION—FORTY-NINE YEARS OF PROSPERITY.

Trinity Methodist Episcopal church, of Rahway, was organized in October, 1849, during the pastorate of the Rev. James H. Dandy at the First M. E. church. At that time thirty-one members of the First church, living in what was then called upper Rahway, desiring to establish a new church in a more convenient location, asked for letters of dismissal for that purpose. Their request was granted although such action would necessarily end to weaken the mother church.



The first movement, however, looking towards the establishment of a separate service, was taken early in the Spring of 1849, when a Sunday-school and preaching services were started in the old Athenian Hall, on Irving street. The first officers of the Sunday-school, elected before there was any separate church organization, were the following: Daniel Wood, superintendent; Henry M. Miller, assistant superintendent; William N. Moore, secretary; Abraham Terrill, treasurer; and John E. Moore, librarian. The services were for the most part conducted by the Rev. Mr. McFarland, of New York, a minister who was well off in this world's goods, and had no stated appointment. Mr. McFarland gave his services free and paid his own expenses. At other times the services were conducted by different clergymen in the vicinity.

When the Broad street church of New-ark was dedicated, Messrs. William M.

Esler, Henry M. Miller and Daniel Wood went to Newark and saw Bishop Janes and explained the wishes of the new congregation. The bishop approved the plan of organizing a separate church for upper Rahway and appointed the Rev. Frank Bottome, a young minister recently arrived from England, to conduct the services. These were continued at the old Athenian Hall (since burned down) which stood on the ground now occupied by Thorn's lumber yard on Main street, until the old church was built.

During Mr. Bottome's short pastorate he had one of the most successful revivals, which had ever visited Rahway, and at the conference of 1850 he reported sixty-nine on probation and forty-seven members in full connection.

Mr. Bottome afterward became one of the most successful and distinguished preachers in the New York conference, and Mrs. Bottome has achieved a world

wide renown as the founder of the order of the King's Daughters.

The records of Trinity church give the following as the first or charter members of the second M. E. church of Rahway, now Trinity:

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Wood.

“ Henry Miller.

“ Hugh Ryno.

“ John C. Clark.

“ William M. Esler.

“ John E. Moore.

“ Abraham Terrill.

“ William H. Moore.

“ John N. Haviland.

“ Peter Moore.

“ George Gage.

“ Aaron Cheddick.

Mrs. Harriet Moffet.

Miss Angeline Clevinger.

“ Sarah Congdon.

“ Janet Martin.

“ Martha Bennett.

Mr. John E. Moore.

“ R. V. Lockwood.

The first leaders were Henry Miller, Daniel Wood and John C. Clark.

The first board of trustees, "elected to serve until the church should be regularly recognized by the conference," were William M. Esler, Daniel Wood and Henry Miller.

The conference of 1850 recognized the second Methodist Episcopal church of Rahway, and appointed as its pastor the Rev. Alexander L. Brice, then a young man and one of the ablest in the conference.

During the first year of Mr. Brice's pastorate the lot, corner of Milton avenue and Broad street, with a frontage of one hundred and eighteen feet on Milton avenue, and eighty-three feet on Broad street, was purchased of Lewis B. Brown for one thousand dollars, and the trustees William M. Esler, Henry Miller and Daniel Wood started subscriptions to raise money for the proposed new church. The cor-

ner stone was laid in September 1850. The plans decided on were for a brick building about forty-eight by sixty feet with basement for Sunday-school and lecture-room, with a choir gallery across the front of the main audience room. The entrances were in the basement with stairs leading from the vestibule to the main audience room. The contract for the wood work was given to George Gage and for the brick work to William Crowell. Work was pushed forward rapidly and the church was finished and dedicated in the Spring of 1851 before the session of the annual conference. It cost about six thousand dollars, and was considered, in those days, a very fine church for a small village such as Rahway was fifty years ago.

Mr. Brice remained two years and during that time the membership increased from forty-seven to one hundred and twenty-three. Mr. Brice died September

11, 1892 at Elizabeth, aged seventy years. He had served forty-five years in the ministry. His widow survives and is a resident of Newark.

In 1852 the Rev. Fletcher Lummis was appointed pastor. He remained but one year. He also held a very successful revival and received fifty-six members on probation. The salary at this time was fixed at four hundred dollars and a donation.

The Rev. Henry M. Brown, the next pastor, remained two years and during that time received one hundred and sixty-seven persons on probation and sixty-nine into full connection. This is the highest record both in the number of conversions and members received ever made in any single pastorate in the city of Rahway. At the close of his two years service the church had one hundred and twenty-nine members and one hundred and ten on probation.

During Mr. Brown's term an effort was made to pay off the church debt. The lot was still unpaid for and there was a considerable indebtedness beside. Mr. Lewis B. Brown, who sold the land to the trustees and who still held a claim against the church for the purchase price, one thousand dollars, offered that, if the trustees would raise enough money within a limited time to pay off all the other indebtedness, he would make the church a donation of his claim.

The pastor, trustees and congregation made a most earnest effort to raise the balance. They happily succeeded, and before the time set by Mr. Brown had expired, they had raised the money, and the church was at last freed from its indebtedness.

The Rev. William E. Perry came in 1855 and remained but one year. At the end of his term there were one hundred and fifty-three members and six on pro-

bation. The salary was fixed at three hundred and fifty dollars.

The next pastor of Trinity church was the Rev. Ralph S. Arndt. Mr. Arndt remained two years, 1856 and 1857, and during that time received fifty-nine on probation and twenty-four in full membership. At the close of his term there were one hundred and sixty-five members and sixty-two on probation. There were one hundred and fifty-one scholars in the Sunday-school, twenty-six officers and teachers and four hundred and seventy volumes in the Sunday-school library. During his two years, the benevolences amounted to two hundred and twenty-five dollars. Mr. Arndt died August 17, 1892 at Newark, N. J., age sixty-six years, having served forty-three years in the ministry. His widow still survives him and resides at Newark.

In 1858 Rev. John Scarlett became pastor and served two years. It was during

his pastorate that the parsonage was built on Broad street on a portion of the church lot. The parsonage was a comfortable and commodious residence and cost about three thousand dollars. During his term the membership increased to two hundred and the Sunday-school to two hundred and seventeen scholars and teachers and the salary was increased to six hundred and seventy-five dollars. The benevolences for the two years amounted to over three hundred dollars. Mr. Scarlett died at Orange, N. J., January 18, 1889 at the ripe age of 86 years, having been forty-eight years in the ministry.

The Rev. Thomas Walters came next, in 1860, and remained two years. During his term there was a small increase in membership and in his second year the benevolences amounted to only \$17.87. This was the first year of the Civil War, which probably accounts for the great falling off in the benevolent contributions.

Mr. Walters died at Hackensack, N. J., July 7, 1879, age 55 years. He had served in the ministry thirty years. His widow resides at Middletown, Connecticut.

Mr. Walters was followed in 1862 by the Rev. B. O. Parvin. During Mr. Parvin's pastorate the Sunday-school increased to two hundred and thirty-three scholars and teachers and the benevolences to \$89.50, but there was considerable falling off in the membership and the salary was reduced to four hundred dollars.

The next pastor, the Rev. Sylvester N. Opdyke remained but one year. During his pastorate the first organ was used in the church, a Mason & Hamlin cabinet.

The Rev. J. W. Young was the next pastor. Mr. Young organized the Sunday-school Missionary Society in 1865. During its first year this society contributed \$319 to Missionary fund and the next year \$73, making a total of \$392 contributed by

the Sunday-school during Mr. Young's two year's pastorate. During his second year the church contributed \$334 to the Centenary fund and \$182 for benevolences. The salary was increased to \$800. The record for Mr. Young's pastorate shows him to have been a most excellent financial manager. There was also a slight increase in the membership. During his last year he held a successful revival and about sixty persons joined the church on probation.

The Rev. John S. Porter served as pastor from 1867 to 1869. During his pastorate the entrance to the church was changed. The front doors, which were originally in the basement, were raised to a level with the main audience room and the front of the church was greatly improved. This was made necessary by the encroachments of the Railroad company when the road was widened and made a four track road, and the raising

of the street to accommodate the new grade. At the same time the interior was remodeled and frescoed and the lecture room improved and beautified, all of which cost the church a large sum of money. To meet this a mortgage of twenty-five hundred dollars was placed on the church. The church ultimately received as damages from the Railroad company for occupying the street in front of the church and parsonage, about seven thousand dollars.

An amusing incident is told of this work of beautifying the church. A French artist was employed to paint the frescoes. Some of the church people went into the building on Sunday and were surprised to find the Frenchman hard at work. They ordered him to desist. He said it was not wicked to paint a good angel in a church even on Sunday and refused to stop work.

At the re-opening of the church, Bishop

Janes conducted the services in the morning and the Rev. William Corbett in the evening. The church looked very fine and the people were congratulated by the Bishop on their beautiful house of worship.

During Mr. Porter's term, there was a slight increase in the membership but a falling off in the Sunday-school. The salary was raised to one thousand dollars; the Sunday-school contributed two hundred and thirty dollars to the missionary fund. The benevolences for his last year were two hundred and twenty-seven dollars. Mr. Porter died Oct. 2, 1890 at Burlington, N. J., aged 86 years. He had served in the ministry sixty-one years, a record surpassed in the conference only by Father Boehm and Josiah F. Canfield.

The Rev. B. O. Parvin served his second term as pastor of this church from 1870 to 1873. During a portion of his term, on account of ill health, he was assisted by

the Rev. George W. Smith, now presiding elder of the district. During his last year Mr. Parvin held a successful revival and forty were taken in on probation, twenty-six of whom were afterwards received into full connection. The salary was raised to fourteen hundred dollars. During his three years, the Sunday-school contributed \$420 to the Missionary fund. Mr. Parvin is still a resident of Rahway and is on the supernumerary list.

The next pastor was the Rev. R. B. Lockwood. Mr. Lockwood conducted a very successful revival during his year, and left eighty-three on probation and one hundred and eighteen in full connection. The Sunday-school showed a marked increase with two hundred and fifty-three scholars and teachers at the end of his year. The salary was fourteen hundred dollars.

The Rev. T. H. Landon served as pastor for three years, 1874 to 1877. During his

term he received fifty members on probation and thirty-two into full membership. His pastorate followed immediately after the great panic and his salary was reduced to eleven hundred dollars. Notwithstanding the hard times the Sunday-school contributed \$584 to the missionary fund, and the benevolences for his last year were \$187. At this time the church debt amounted to thirty-five hundred dollars.

The Rev. John W. Seran was appointed pastor in 1877 and served two years. He received fifty-nine on probation of whom forty-four were admitted into full connection, an unusually large proportion. The Sunday-school again shows a slight falling off both in number and in contributions to the missionary fund. At the close of his term there were one hundred and ninety-eight scholars and teachers in the Sunday-school and their offerings for the two years amounted to \$172. Mr.

Seran died September 14, 1896, at Newark, N. J., age 72 years, and had served in the ministry forty-six years.

At the last quarterly conference of Mr. Seran's term, the Rev. B. O. Parvin, on behalf of the board of trustees, made the following report:

“The church property consists of church edifice and parsonage with land attached, conveyed to the trustees in accordance with form laid down in the Discipline and valued at \$10,000 on which there is a debt of \$4,250, viz.: a mortgage of \$3,500 held by the Rahway Savings Institution, a note of \$250 held by a member of the board and \$500, unpaid assessments, with four years accrued interest on the same, making a total of \$4,250 beside accrued interest.

“As the Discipline calls not only for a report of indebtedness, but how those debts were contracted, we have to say that on the 1st of July, 1859, money was

raised by mortgaging the amount of \$1,700, said money applied to payment of debts contracted in building the parsonage and on April 1st, 1870, an additional \$800 was taken by the Rahway Savings Institution, making \$2,500. Part of this \$800 was applied to painting, and in part refurnishing parsonage and repairs in and around the church and parsonage, and to meet some obligation in way of current expenses.

“ Still another \$1,000 was taken by the same Institution, 1st of July, 1873, cancelling all former mortgages and making one of \$3,500. Said \$1,000 applied to paying assessments. The \$250 raised on note in 1875 and 1878 was applied to meet current expenses.”

Mr. Seran was followed by the Rev. D. Halleron who remained three years. There was but little change either in membership or benevolences during this time, although about five hundred dollars were paid on the church debt. In Octo-

ber, 1879, the Rev. Mr. Halleron and Jacob Hyer were appointed a committee to secure a \$1,000 improvement bond. These bonds were worth only 35 per cent. but could be used at their face value for paying city improvement assessments. At the next meeting, held December 1, 1879, the committee reported that they had collected the money required and the surplus of \$73.25 which was turned over to the trustees.

During the next pastorate that of the Rev. T. E. Gordon, the mortgage on the church bearing 7 per cent. interest was paid off and a new mortgage given at 6 per cent. Over one thousand dollars were spent in improvements. The walls were refrescoed, the aisles widened, the seats lowered and new carpets purchased. There was little change in the membership or in the Sunday-school. The conference report for 1866 gives two hundred and thirty-four scholars in the Sunday-



REV. W. H. RUTH,
Pastor Trinity M. E. Church.

school and the report for 1884 gives the total as one hundred and forty-two. Since this time the Sunday-school reports show a marked increase.

The Rev. W. H. Ruth was the next pastor. He remained three years, 1885-8. During his term he received seventy-four members on probation, of whom fifty-three were received into full connection. The salary was eleven hundred and fifty dollars and the benevolences for his last year were three hundred and eleven dollars. During the three years the Sunday-school contributed one hundred and seventy-seven dollars to the missionary fund. At the close of his term there were forty members on probation and one hundred and ninety-one in full connection; and two hundred and thirteen scholars and teachers in the Sunday-school. During Mr. Ruth's pastorate \$768 were paid in liquidation of church debts.

Mr. Ruth was succeeded by the Rev. C

F. Hull who remained three years. In August, 1888, the trustees applied to the quarterly conference for authority to sell all or a portion of the church property. This authority was given at the meeting of the next quarterly conference held September 13th, 1888. During Mr. Hull's pastorate a settlement was made with the Pennsylvania Railroad company. The entire property had been offered to the Company for thirteen thousand dollars but the Company refused to purchase the property at that price. The trustees then offered to accept seven thousand dollars damages if paid at once. The question went before the commission which awarded the church seventy-two hundred dollars. Of this amount \$500 were paid to the attorneys, \$3,526.83 to cancel the mortgage on the property, and \$3,000 in part payment for the lot where the church and parsonage now stand, the purchase price of which was \$5,500.



MRS. ANNA EVANS.

At a meeting of the board of trustees held July 9, 1891, the following building committee was appointed: Rev. T. C. Mayham, L. S. Hyer, Charles Drake, William F. Rossell, J. M. Brookfield, David Voorhies, F. A. Reinhart, D. K. Ryno and Mr. Howard.

On February 5, 1892, Mr. Mayham reported to the building committee that he had subscriptions amounting to fifty-five hundred dollars and the committee decided to build a church to cost about fifteen thousand dollars.

Mr. Charles G. Jones was employed as architect and was instructed to draw plans for building to be not over 60x100 feet and to seat four hundred in the main auditorium, to be heated by steam and to have a kitchen in the basement.

On March 28, 1892, the president and secretary of the trustees were authorized to accept the deed of the new church site, corner Main street and Milton avenue, and

to execute a mortgage for \$2,500 for the balance of the purchase price.

As soon as the specifications were completed and approved, bids were called for. The lowest of the six bids offered was that of Patrick Sheridan for \$17,775. The contract was awarded to Mr. Sheridan on June 6, 1892.

Ground was broken for the new building on Monday, June 13, 1892, and the corner stone was laid on Saturday, August 13, of the same year. The work was pushed rapidly forward and on Sunday, June 11, 1893, the basement was opened for service. The first service in the new church was held by the Epworth League, and was lead by Miss Hattie Learned. About the same time the old church and parsonage were sold to Harriet A. Looker for \$10,250. The money received from this sale was of great assistance in completing the new edifice.

Owing to the hard times slower pro-

gress was made in completing and furnishing the church and the building was not fully completed until December 1895. The first payment was made to the contractor August 8, 1892 and the final payment December 28, 1895.

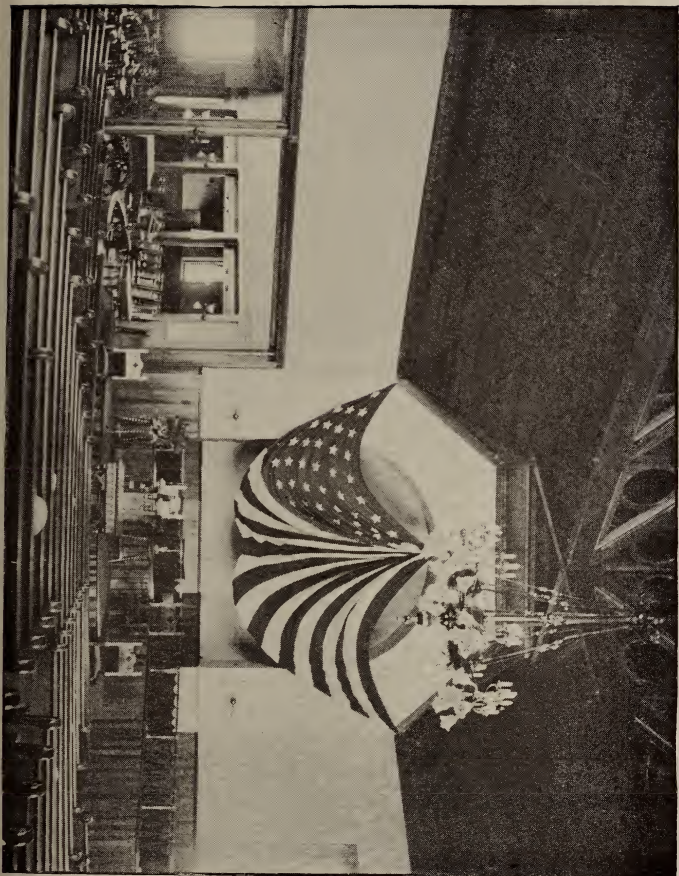
At a meeting of the membership held December 17, 1895, shortly before the dedication of the church, a motion to change the name of the corporation to Trinity Methodist Episcopal church was passed by a vote of twenty-seven to six, and a request sent to the trustees to make the proposed change. This was done at the next meeting held December 23, by an unanimous vote.

The church was dedicated by Bishop Cyrus Foss December 29, 1895, in the presence of a large congregation and a number of visiting clergymen including the Rev. Dr. Buckley, the editor of the "Christian Advocate," the Rev. B. O. Parvin, who had served two terms as

pastor of the church, the Rev. W. M. Fanton, of the Rahway First M. E. church, and Prof. Thomas H. Landon, of the Bordentown Military Institute. Bishop Foss preached in the morning and the Rev. Dr. Buckley in the evening.

The dedicatory ceremony took place in the evening, after the other services. President Hyer, in behalf of the trustees and officials of the church, formally delivered the church over to the Bishop who then made a formal dedication of the edifice, according to the ritual of the church.

An elaborate and extensive musical program was rendered at the different services of the day by the choir under the direction of their leader, Mr. George M. Gage, and the church was tastefully decorated with flowers and potted plants from the conservatories of Messrs. W. F. Rossell and W. B. Du Rie, which were arranged under the supervision of Mr. Rossell, as was also the arch over the



INTERIOR OF TRINITY M. E. CHURCH

platform and a silver star, studded with small electric lights, above which was the word "Trinity" in silver letters.

Among the special gifts aside from money subscriptions were the following:

The stone steps at the three entrances, the cushions for the pews, the altar furniture, and one of the large windows by Mrs. Anna Evans.

Large window by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Acken.

Mrs. Evans has contributed most generously to every enterprise of the church since making her residence in Rahway. Her grandfather was identified with the early Wesleyan movement in Yorkshire, England. She is now eighty-five years old but keeps in touch with the Methodist churches local and general.

Window in the Milton avenue vestibule by the Epworth League.

Window in Main street vestibule by the Junior Epworth League.

The three windows in the rear of the choir were given, one each, by Lewis S. Heyer, Ebenezer Muddell and Patrick Sheriden, the contractor. The lighting fixture, combination gas and electric, chairs for lecture rooms, and other furniture by the Ladies' Aid society.

The cuts which we give of the exterior and interior of the new church describe the beauty of its design and elegance of fittings and furnishings better than any words of ours could do. It is a credit to the builders, the church and the city.

Arrangements were begun in 1895, before the church was completed, for a new parsonage, the old one having been sold. At a meeting of the official board held September 20, 1895, the plans for the new parsonage were approved and adopted, Mr. H. L. Lanphear, being the lowest bidder, was awarded the contract for \$3,171 and Mr. W. H. Acken was appointed a committee to superintend the work.

Photo by Jansen

NEW TRINITY M. E. CHURCH



Mr. Mayham remained five years, the full limit of time. During his term he received one hundred and thirteen members on probation of whom fifty were received in full connection. The salary was increased to twelve hundred dollars. At the close of his term there were two hundred and twelve members and thirty-five on probation. The Sunday-school numbered two hundred and twenty-eight.

In 1896 the Rev. G. C. Mouldsdaie was appointed pastor, and remained two years. During his second year the parsonage was completed and Mr. Mouldsdaie occupied it during the latter portion of his ministry. Mr. Mouldsdaie received thirty-one on probation of whom seventeen were taken into full connection. The membership increased to two hundred and twenty-six and twenty-eight on probation and the Sunday-school to two hundred and fifty-four. The church reported to the last annual conference as valued at thirty-

eight thousand dollars and the parsonage four thousand dollars with the total indebtedness of \$6,450. In 1898 the present pastor, Rev. W. H. Ruth, who served this church so acceptably from 1885 to 1888, was appointed to a second pastorate over this church.

The Sunday-school Missionary society, since its organization in 1865, has contributed three thousand three hundred and ninety-three dollars to the missionary fund, a record that is excelled by few schools of its numbers.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.

TRUSTEES—L. S. Hyer, president; W. F. Rossell, secretary; C. E. Reed, treasurer; J. M. Brookfield, D. K. Ryno, D. H. Voorhies, Wm. H. Acken, J. W. Bostwick, W. W. Branson.

STEWARDS—John W. Martin, District steward; Geo. M. Gage, recording steward; Newton Hoffman, Jas. H. Jones, W. W. Branson, W. F. Rossell, J. M. Brookfield, J. R. Finch, Wm. B. Du Rie, J. J. Lawrence, John P. Pratt.



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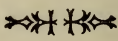
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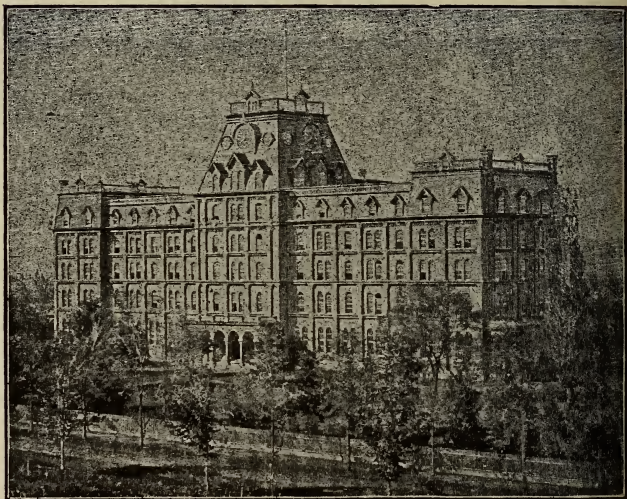
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